

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Hammingo - June 17, 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

See attached document.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Adequately explained

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Julie & Kevin Ellingson

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 7880 100 St. NW.

City: Pine Island State: MN Zip Code: 55963

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

June 23, 2009

Julie & Kevin Ellingson
7880 100th Street N.W.
Pine Island, MN 5563

Dear Stephanie Strength,

I am writing in response to CapX2020's tentative plan to place a 161 kv high voltage power line on or near our property. I would like them to consider other options.

I-155-002

My concern is how the possibility of a high voltage power line, near my home, will affect my life. As a result of a chemical poisoning 17 years ago, I have a significant number of health concerns that wouldn't typically concern the average person. Because of this, my husband and I searched for many years to find a property that would fit our requirements. We couldn't have farms fields or neighbors near us that would spray chemicals. We couldn't be near any industrial area or near high traffic roads with exhaust fumes, because of my acute sensitivity to anything with petroleum fumes. Also, I didn't want to be near any high voltage power lines. I won't take up your time with the whole list of criteria. The long and the short of it is that we finally found this property where we built our home. We put extensive research and time into constructing a healthy house, certified by *The American Lung Association*. We constructed our home with mostly alternative materials that didn't contain many of the toxic chemicals in traditional building products. We made our home handicap accessible, in the event that my health deteriorated further. We didn't want to be exposed to magnetic fields, so we routed all the high current wires to lesser-used locations of the house, and placed the electrical panel in the garage. We were careful to place lighting transformers away from highly used areas, and we used electronic fluorescent-lamp ballasts, rather than magnetic, to lower the strength of the magnetic field. Because of all these special considerations, our home cost us 25% more to build.

I-155-003

I understand that CapX2020's official position is that there is not sufficient evidence indicating that EMF's pose a significant health hazard. I would have to respectfully disagree with that. It appears that the majority of the studies that refute this theory are funded by The Electric Power Research Institute, which is sponsored by electric utilities. There is a great deal of research into the biological effects of electromagnetic radiation, and how it affects a cell's membrane, how it affects calcium flow from the cells to the brain, and it's affect on how

cells communicate with each other. The U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, has a summary of the most significant studies that have been done.

If they were to place a high voltage power line near our home, our only alternative would be to move. However, I'm sure you can see how difficult that would be for us, given the criteria that a new location would have to meet. If we sold our home now, we would not recover the additional 25% that we spent to build our home specifically for my health needs. In addition, a high voltage power line on our property would devalue the property 10%. If you add to that the state of a down housing market, I'm sure you can see the tremendous loss we would incur as a result of their decision to place a high voltage power line near our home. We built our home with a plan to stay here until retirement, and we are prepared to fight to do that.

We ask that you take our situation into consideration when evaluating the route plans.

Sincerely,



Julie Ellingson

I-155-001

I-155-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-155-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-155-003

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